



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



STEVEN E. CHESTER
DIRECTOR

January 18, 2006

1. Bill Number and Sponsor:

Senate Bill (SB) 852, as passed the Senate
Senator Gerald Van Woerkom et al.

2. Purpose:

To obtain better information on the location of high quantity water withdrawals and encourage development of water conservation practices by each water use sector.

3. How This Legislation Impacts Current Programs in the Department:

This bill improves the data reported under Part 327, Great Lakes Preservation, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.

4. Introduced at Agency Request:

No.

5. Agency Position:

Support.

6. Justification for the Department's Position:

The bill requires submission of information that is more specific than currently reported and better supports state decision making relative to the impact of water withdrawals.

This bill establishes uniform reporting requirements for all large capacity withdrawals. This is crucial if we are to adequately manage the public trust asset that is surface and groundwater.

7. State Revenue/Budgetary Implications:

Funding is necessary to support management of information reported under this bill. Tie-barred SB 850 creates a revenue stream that may be approximately commensurate with initial staffing and program expenses.

8. Implications to Local Units of Government:

None.

9. Administrative Rules Implications:

None.

10. Other Pertinent Information:

This legislation is tie-barred to four related bills:

SB 850: Establishes a program for management of large quantity withdrawals.

SB 851: Assigns to the groundwater conservation advisory council the responsibility to design a water withdrawal assessment tool.

SB 854: Creates a voluntary system for avoiding and addressing adverse resource impacts among water users within a watershed and establishes limited order authority for the Department to prevent adverse resource impacts.

SB 857: Applies the adverse resource impact standard to municipal water supply systems.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Chester", with a stylized, flowing script.

Steven E. Chester, Director
Department of Environmental Quality